



Security Council

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Letter dated 30 May 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 27 May 2002, which I received from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan



Annex

Letter dated 27 May 2002 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on SFOR operations (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Council.

(Signed) The Rt. Hon. Lord **Robertson** of Port Ellen

Enclosure**Monthly report to the United Nations on SFOR operations**

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 30 April 2002) there were just over 18,400 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries.
2. SFOR continues to contribute towards the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, monitor compliance by the entity armed forces, conduct inspections and consolidation of weapons storage sites, provide support to the international organizations working in theatre, provide support to the Federation authorities in collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest, and monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout the country.
3. Although the general security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable during the reporting period, there were four bomb incidents, which are believed to be linked to organized crime. On 4 April, two cars were blown up in Siroki Brijeg (west of Mostar), one of which belonged to the local public prosecutor. On 17 April, a car belonging to a Bosnian Serb was blown up in Banja Luka. On 18 April, the car belonging to the Finance Minister of canton 8 was blown up in the village of Studenci.
4. SFOR has intensified Operation Harvest for the period running from 1 April to 30 June, and will work closely with the International Police Task Force (IPTF) and local police in an effort to collect as many weapons held by the local population as possible. During the reporting period, 204 weapons, 1,445 grenades and mines, 62,711 rounds of ammunition and 780 kilogrammes of explosives were picked up.
5. In addition, several caches of weapons and ammunition were found and confiscated by SFOR. For example, on 10 April, 130 mortar grenades, 96 M-60 rifle grenades and 72 hand grenades were found in a house at Belica, 30 kilometres east of Mostar. On 17 April, a cache containing 150 mines, 360 detonators, 600 pieces of 500-gram TNT, 1,800 pieces of 200-gram TNT and 750 metres of explosive cord was found in the Doboj area. On 24 April, a large quantity of ammunition was discovered in the cellars of an abandoned factory in Vrapcici, north-east of Mostar. The cache, believed to have been left over from the war, was booby-trapped, which delayed the eventual removal and confiscation of the ammunition, which included over 4,000 120-millimetre mortar shells, over 6,000 explosive fuses and 850 propellant charges. The ammunition is currently being destroyed by SFOR.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. The armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina carried out normal training activities during the reporting period in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. According to the plan mentioned in the January report to reduce the armed forces,¹ 2,208 Federation soldiers who opted for voluntary redundancy handed over their weapons and left the armed forces on 1 April. The Government has pledged to hand over their severance pay by the end of June. SFOR carried out an inspection of air defence equipment at Zaluzani air base and the Kosmos repair facility near Banja Luka on 17 April to check on equipment

previously listed as unknown. The equipment in question was positively identified during that inspection.

7. During the period under review, SFOR troops conducted 94 inspections of weapons storage sites, 36 of them Bosnian Serb, 33 Bosniac, 11 Bosnian Croat and 13 Federation. In the effort to reduce the number of weapons storage sites,² SFOR has requested the entity armed forces to provide information on holdings of obsolete weapons and treaty-limited equipment by 30 April. SFOR will permit, with prior approval, the sale of these weapons to third countries over the coming months. Any weapons not sold will be destroyed.

8. SFOR troops monitored 371 training and movement activities during the reporting period: 167 Bosnian Serb, 89 Bosniac, 6 Bosnian Croat and 109 Federation.

9. A total of 545 mine-clearing activities were monitored over this period: 192 Bosnian Serb, 208 Bosniac, 116 Bosnian Croat and 29 Federation.

Cooperation with international organizations

10. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Office of the High Representative, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

11. On 15 April, SFOR supported ICTY in an exhumation in the Prijedor area and on 17 and 18 April provided security support for the visit of the ICTY Chief Prosecutor.

Outlook

12. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is expected to remain stable.

Notes

¹ The Federation Armed Forces are expected to reduce personnel from 23,000 to 13,000 by the end of 2002. The Republika Srpska armed forces are set to reduce personnel from 9,000 to 6,000 by the end of 2003 through retirement and expiry of contracts.

² 213 weapons storage sites remain, compared to 353 a year ago.